

**From:** Biesecker, Michael  
**To:** [Graham, Amy](#); [StClair, Christie](#)  
**Cc:** [Press](#); [Gray, David](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Superfund  
**Date:** Friday, September 1, 2017 2:41:04 PM

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In 2012, EPA conducted a nationwide assessment of the increased threat to Superfund sites poised by climate change, including rising sea levels and stronger hurricanes. Of the more than 1,600 sites reviewed as part of the study, 521 were determined to be located in 1-in-100 year and 1-in-500 year flood zones. Nearly 50 sites located in coastal areas could also be vulnerable to rising sea levels.

The report lists two dozen Superfund sites that were determined to be the most vulnerable to flooding and sea-level rise associated with climate change. One of those, the Bailey Waste Disposal site in Bridge City, Texas, is currently under about 20 feet of water.

As part of its review, has Administrator Pruitt's Superfund Task Force reviewed this issue?

Pruitt himself has called climate scientists predictions of stronger storms "alarmist." Has Hurricane Harvey has any impact on his views?

Please provide on-the-record comment. I am writing on deadline for today.

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**From:** Graham, Amy [<mailto:graham.amy@epa.gov>]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 01, 2017 1:53 PM  
**To:** Biesecker, Michael; StClair, Christie  
**Cc:** Press; Gray, David  
**Subject:** RE: Superfund

That's correct. We will begin to assess other sites after flood waters recede in those areas.

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**From:** Biesecker, Michael [<mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org>]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 1, 2017 1:09 PM  
**To:** Graham, Amy <[graham.amy@epa.gov](mailto:graham.amy@epa.gov)>; StClair, Christie <[StClair.Christie@epa.gov](mailto:StClair.Christie@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Press <[Press@epa.gov](mailto:Press@epa.gov)>; Gray, David <[gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Superfund

When does EPA expect it will be able to visit and assess flooded sites in Houston and Port Arthur?  
After the floodwaters waters recede?

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**From:** Graham, Amy [<mailto:graham.amy@epa.gov>]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 01, 2017 1:04 PM  
**To:** Biesecker, Michael; StClair, Christie  
**Cc:** Press; Gray, David  
**Subject:** RE: Superfund

Michael - Unified Command personnel inspected two Superfund sites in the Corpus Christi area

yesterday. Both the Falcon Refinery Site and the Brine Service Site show no significant damage. No emergency clean up response for storm damage is needed at the two sites.

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**From:** Biesecker, Michael [<mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org>]

**Sent:** Friday, September 1, 2017 12:14 PM

**To:** StClair, Christie <[StClair.Christie@epa.gov](mailto:StClair.Christie@epa.gov)>; Graham, Amy <[graham.amy@epa.gov](mailto:graham.amy@epa.gov)>

**Cc:** Press <[Press@epa.gov](mailto:Press@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Superfund

Christie, Amy,

Following up from earlier in the week, AP is still seeking details on what EPA is doing regarding flooded Superfund sites. EPA's press release on Wednesday said EPA is "assesses conditions at the NPL Superfund sites in the storm's impact area" and was "began rapid assessments at two sites that are accessible after floodwaters have receded and this work will continue."

Which sites were those? What did EPA find? Did EPA take samples to determine whether contaminants leached out into floodwaters? Were more sites visited and assessed on Thursday? How many people has EPA assigned to this work?

I will add that AP has visited three Houston-area superfund sites yesterday. All were still heavily flooded and we saw no state or federal personnel there (or anyone else). We are visiting and documenting more sites today.

Michael



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